

Remarks/Arguments

In the non-final Office Action dated November 14, 2007, it is noted that claims 1-11 are pending, that claims 1-11 stand rejected, and that the drawings filed on December 16, 2004 have been accepted.

Independent claim 7 has been amended herein to provide additional clarity to the claimed invention and to expedite prosecution of this application. This amendment is fully supported by the specification, for example, at page 10, line 31 to page 11, line 2 and page 12, lines 18-20. No new matter is entered.

In view of the following remarks reconsideration of the rejected claims is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 on the grounds of nonstatutory double patenting over claims 4 and 6 of U.S. Patent 7,167,479 (hereinafter '479) in combination with various other references.

The '479 patent is commonly owned by the assignee of the present application, applicants have filed herewith a terminal disclaimer in order to overcome this nonstatutory double patenting ground of rejection.

In view of the terminal disclaimer it is respectfully submitted that this rejection of claims 1-9 is obviated.

Provisional Rejection of Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 1-6 and 10-11 are provisionally rejected on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-3 and 13, respectively, of copending application no. 10/518,212 in view of Self et al. (US 5,634,043) (hereinafter Self).

Claims 7-9 are provisionally rejected on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 7-9, respectively, of copending application no. 10/518,212.

As these are provisional rejections, applicants will address these rejections upon the issuance of claims in one of the pending applications.

Rejection of Claims 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 7-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Lydon et al. (US 6,680,939) (hereinafter Lydon). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants independent claim 7 is directed to a linearly expandable broadcast router that includes in part “means for coupling said at least three linear expandable broadcast router components in a fully interconnected topology on said input sides of said at least three linear expandable broadcast router components.”

The Office Action points to Lydon, col. 4, lines 48-65 and FIG. 4 as anticipating the claimed features. However, as shown in FIG. 4 of Lydon the inputs of the groups 50, 60, 70, and 80 are not fully interconnected on the input sides. For example, the output of 50 (50A) is connected to the inputs of 60, 70 and 80. The input of 50A is connected to the output of 70A.

As is explained in Lydon, col. 4, lines 57-64, the topology of Lydon is arranged such that the outputs of each module are connected to the inputs of the other modules. Lydon teaches: “In order to make an input signal received by the router 50, for example, available to the outputs served by routers 60, 70 and 80, each of the router modules 50A, 50B, 50C and [50D] has three output expansion terminals which are connected respectively to input expansion terminals of the corresponding modules of the three routers 60, 70 and 80.” Emphasis added.

Thus, it is clear that the inputs of the routers of Lydon are connected to the outputs of the other routers. In contrast, applicants' claimed invention recites “coupling said at least three linear expandable broadcast router components in a fully interconnected topology on said input sides of said at least three linear expandable broadcast router components.”

Because Lydon fails to teach all the features recited applicants' claim 7, as discussed above, Lydon cannot anticipate claim 7. Claim 8 depends from claim 7 and inherits at least the above discussed features not found in Lydon, plus claim 8 has additional recited features.

As is described in applicants' specification, for example, page 12, lines 24-27, applicants fully connected topology provides an advantage in having an improved fault tolerance over prior linearly expandable broadcast routers.

For at least the foregoing reasons it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 7-8 as anticipated by Lydon be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Lydon in view of Self. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' claim 9 depends ultimately from claim 7. Self describes five routing blocks for handling each of the interface channels. These routing blocks are described as "buffering data between each of the interface channels" (col. 9, lines 63-67). From the description in Self one skilled in the art would consider that each routing core is connected to one of the five interface channels and buffers data between each interface channel. Thus, Self does not mention or describe applicants' claimed feature of a fully interconnected topology on said input sides of said at least three linear expandable broadcast router components, as recited in claim 7. Therefore, Self does not cure the deficiencies of Lydon. Because Lydon and Self in combination fail to teach or suggest all the features recited in claim 9, an obviousness rejection cannot be sustained and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Lydon in view of Stacey et al. (US 6,765,921) (hereinafter Stacey). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' claim 10 recites coupling the routers using first, second, and third discrete paths (see claim 10 for specific wording). It is admitted in the Office Action that Lydon fails to teach the claimed features. As pointed out above, Lydon FIG. 4 and the corresponding description describes that the inputs of each module are connected to the outputs of the other modules.

The Office Action relies on the interconnection of core nodes as shown in Figure 2 of Stacey as allegedly showing the claimed features. However, Stacey in col. 4, makes clear that FIG. 2 only illustrates a simple network in its abstract node form. Stacey further states that the connections between the nodes represent transport links between the nodes.

There is no suggestion in Stacey of applicants' claimed features, for example: "coupling, using a first discrete path, said input side of said first router to said input side of said second router;"

In contrast, Stacey suggests that the connections shown in FIG. 2 simply represent transport links. One skilled in the art would consider a transport link to carry data from the output of a node to the input of another node. This is different from applicants' claimed features of coupling, using a first discrete path, said input side of said first router to said input side of said second router. The description of Stacey's FIG. 2 does not suggest that the links are a discrete path from the input side of a first router to an input side of a second router.

In light of at least the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that the combination of Lydon and Stacey fail to teach all the elements of independent claim 10. Dependent claim 11 includes all the limitations of claim 10, therefore, it is further submitted that Lydon and Stacey fail to teach all the elements of dependent claim 11.

In view of at least the reasons discussed above, claims 10-11 would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art upon a reading of Lydon and Stacey. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims pending in this patent application are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all the claims are respectfully solicited.

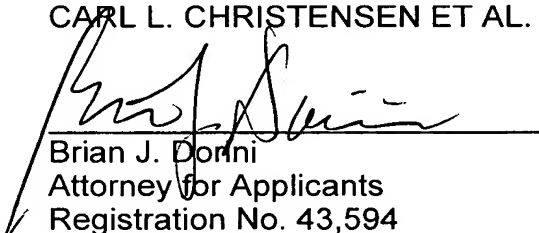
If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner contact the applicants' attorney at (609) 734-6817, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Please charge the \$460 fee for the Petition for the Two Month Extension, and any other costs that may be associated with the filing of the enclosed documents, to Deposit Account No. 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

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